

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT</b>            |                                | Docket Number:<br><b>10191/4261</b>              |                                   |
| Application Number<br><b>To be assigned 10191/4261</b> | Filing Date<br><b>Herewith</b> | Examiner<br><b>To be assigned</b>                | Art Unit<br><b>To be assigned</b> |
| Invention Title<br><b>SUPPORT ELEMENT</b>              |                                | Inventor(s)<br><b>SCHEFFEL, Christian et al.</b> |                                   |

Address to:  
 Mail Stop PCT  
 Commissioner for Patents  
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 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

1. In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in conformance with the procedures of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609, attorneys for Applicant hereby brings the following references to the attention of the Examiner. The references are listed on the attached modified PTO Form No. 1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.
2. A copy of the patents listed on the modified PTO form 1449 are enclosed, unless otherwise indicated.


(R.no. 36,197)

Dated: 5/26, 2006

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|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br/>PTO-1449</b> | DOCKET NO.<br><b>10191/4261</b>             | SERIAL NO.<br><b>10/581,002</b>     |
|   | APPLICANT<br><b>SCHEFFEL, Martin et al.</b> | <b>SEARCHED PCT/P10 26 MAY 2006</b> |
|   | FILING DATE<br><b>To be assigned</b>        | GROUP<br><b>To be assigned</b>      |

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL | PATENT/ PUBLICATION NUMBER | PATENT/PUBLICATION DATE | NAME                      | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
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|                  | * 5,970,953                | October 26, 1999        | LORRAINE et al.           |       |          |             |
|                  | * 6,276,339                | August 21, 2001         | SHEBERT, JR., Leonard Lee |       |          |             |
|                  | 5,074,269                  | December 24, 1991       | HERBON et al.             |       |          |             |
|                  | 4,993,390                  | February 19, 1991       | ONO et al.                |       |          |             |
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|                  | 4,294,215                  | October 13, 1981        | HANS et al.               |       |          |             |

\* Copy of reference is not enclosed because reference is cited and described in Search Report (copy of reference provided by the International Searching Authority).

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE               | COUNTRY       | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION    |    |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|----------|----------------|----|
|                  |                 |                    |               |       |          | Yes            | No |
|                  | 101 63 030      | July 3, 2003       | Germany       |       |          |                | X* |
|                  | WO 03/038267    | May 8, 2003        | PCT           |       |          |                | X* |
|                  | 29 26 490       | February 5, 1981   | Germany       |       |          | X** - Abstract |    |
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|                  | WO 00/16023     | March 23, 2000     | PCT           |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |
|                  | 2003-254629     | September 10, 2003 | Japan         |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |
|                  | 02-008424       | January 11, 1990   | Japan         |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |
|                  | 198 51 791      | March 23, 2000     | Germany       |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |
|                  | 100 58 015      | May 29, 2002       | Germany       |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |
|                  | 100 02 005      | August 9, 2001     | Germany       |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |
|                  | 93 12 825.8     | January 5, 1995    | Germany       |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |
|                  | 197 56 102      | June 24, 1999      | Germany       |       |          | X - Abstract   |    |

\* Copy of reference is not enclosed because reference is cited and described in Search Report (copy of reference provided by the International Searching Authority).

\*\* Mentioned in Specification and in Search Report.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

|                  |  |  |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL |  | AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC. |
|                  |  |  |

| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED |
|---|-----------------|
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                 |